

REMARKS

The Examiner's continued attention to the application is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The offending phrase "or the like" has been redacted by amendment, above.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Moreau et al. ("Moreau"). The rejection is traversed, particularly as to the claims as amended.

The Examiner mistakes Applicant's argument in stating that "Applicant is arguing that Moreau does not have the reel at its distal end from the measuring head." Rather, Applicant argues that Moreau does not have the reel at the distal end of the apparatus. Claim 1 prior to amendment herein recited that the reel for winding the cable on and off is provided at the distal end of the apparatus. It did not specify "at the distal end from the measuring head", which the Examiner assumes.

Although Applicant does not believe it required, to further clarify the invention claim 1 is hereby amended so that distal and proximal ends of the apparatus are more directly stated.

To reiterate the prior response, the reel for winding the cable on and off in the Moreau apparatus is located at the proximal end rather than the distal end. As a consequence of this differentiating feature, the Moreau apparatus can pass only limited bends of 3-5 times the tube diameter. The present invention is able to pass bends of a single times the tube diameter as the specification discusses on page 2, lines 8-13. Accordingly, the present invention is neither disclosed nor suggested by Moreau.

The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Moreau in view of Marvin et al. ("Marvin"), claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Moreau in view of Zollinger et al. ("Zollinger "), claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Moreau in view of Zollinger and Marvin, and claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Moreau in view of Zollinger, Marvin, and Wernicke. The rejections are traversed, particularly as to the claims as amended. The additional references do not cure the deficiencies of Moreau noted above.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and/or claims by the current amendment. The attached paper is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

An earnest attempt has been made to respond to each and every ground of rejection advanced by the Examiner, without introduction of new matter or raising new issues. However, should the Examiner have any queries, suggestions or comments relating to a speedy disposition of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) An apparatus for [the] internal inspection of pipes and tubes [or the like], said apparatus comprising an ultrasonic measuring head at a distal end and a cable coupled to the measuring head, which cable can be coupled at a proximal end outside the pipe or tube to be measured to a device processing the measuring data, wherein at its distal end and behind the measuring head, the apparatus is provided with a reel for winding the cable on and off.